

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 PC-01 AID-05 IGA-02 TRSE-00 OMB-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /075 W

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R 261222Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4869

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU

COMUSMACTHAI BANGKOK

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

AMCONSUL UDORN

AMCONSUL SONGKHLA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 24965

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV PFOR TH US

SUBJECT: RTG OUTLOOK ON USE OF FOREIGN TECHNICIANS

REF: BANGKOK 21420 KNOTAL)

1. WITH FURTHER REFERENCE TO REMARKS MADE BY MINISTER OF FINANCE BUNCHU IN BUDGET DEBATE OCTOBER 8 (REFTEL) THAT THAILAND WILL CLOSELY REEVALUATE THE WORK OF INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER AGENCIES, MISSION HAS LEARNED THAT AT MEETING OF GENERAL BOARD OF THE DEPT OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION (DTEC) IN AUGUST THE DECISION WAS REACHED TO SCREEN ALL FOREIGN TECHNICAL ADVISERS CAREFULLY.

2. CONTEXT MADE IT CLEAR THAT DIRECTOR-GENERAL CHUCHAT (XUJATI) OF DTEC WAS TO SCREEN NOT ONLY FOREIGN TECHNICIANS FROM U.S. BUT FROM ANY OTHER COUNTRY, INCLUDING PARTICULARLY THOSE IN THAILAND ON LONG-TERM BASIS. THIS DIRECTIVE REFLECTED VIEW THAT THE TIME HAD COME FOR THE RTG TO USE ITS OWN WELL-CONFIDENTIAL

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TRAINED TECHNICAL PEOPLE TO A GREATER EXTENT THAN IN THE

POST AND TO MOVE TOWARDS LIMITING FOREIGN TECHNICAL ADVISERS TO MUCH MORE PRECISELY DEFINED TASKS OF FAR MORE LIMITED DURATION THAN HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN THE CUSTOM.

3. AT DTEC REQUEST PEACE CORPS IN THAILAND HAS GIVEN PRIORITY IN PAST YEAR TO OBTAINING SERVICES OF VOLUNTEERS IN AGRICULTURAL AND HEALTH FIELDS WHILE GRADUALLY REDUCING NUMBERS IN ENGLISH TEACHING. INSTRUCTIONS OF GENERAL BOARD OF DTEC AND OTHER FACTORS ARE LIKELY TO ACCELERATE REDUCTION OF NEW INPUT OF ENGLISH TEACHING VOLUNTEERS AND TIGHTER SCREENING OF RTG AGENCY REQUESTS FOR NEW VOLUNTEERS IN OTHER FIELDS. DISCUSSION NOW UNDERWAY WITHIN MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, DTEC AND PC ON FUTURE REQUEST LEVELS.

4. MISSION APPRECIATES THAI INTEREST IN MAKING FULL USE OF TRAINED THAI PERSONNEL AND PC PROGRAMS WILL CONTINUE BE DESIGNED TO COMPLEMENT SUCH USE.
WHITEHOUSE

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